

From: Connie Wickland
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 2:32pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

9928 181st Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052
January 25, 2002
Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinions regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I believe that your office reached a fair and reasonable settlement that should allow the industry to return its focus to innovation, rather than litigation.

Microsoft has already agreed to concessions that have set new antitrust precedent. The competition will be allowed to use Windows as a springboard to launch their products that compete directly to those programs already included within Windows. Also, Microsoft will disclose, for the competition, various interfaces in its Windows operating system. Most importantly, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against any software or hardware developers that develop or promote software that competes with Windows or that runs on software that competes with Windows.

Microsoft has made these concessions because it realizes that settling the case sooner is better than later. If these concessions were asked from more traditional and understandable industries, I think they would be denounced as going against the principles of competition and free enterprise. Imagine if every Coke can had to have a sample of Pepsi inside, or if McDonalds had to offer Burger King's Whopper to those that wanted it. Would that be reasonable?

This settlement will allow the consumers, the industry, and the economy to move forward. I hope when reviewing this case it will be judged by its merits, and not by the everlasting chain of competitors' demands.

Sincerely,

Connie Wickland Get more from the Web. FREE MSN Explorer download : <http://explorer.msn.com>